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*Chrono*

8 April 1986

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUBJECT: Accession and Exploitation of Foreign Commercial Databases by the Office of Central Reference and the Foreign Broadcast Information Service

1. The Office of Central Reference (OCR), as part of its responsibility to provide reference and research services to the Agency, makes available to Agency analysts online access to a variety of domestic and foreign commercial databases containing information on a broad range of topics. OCR's Library reference staff serves as the interface between the database systems and the analyst seeking information and provides assistance in accessing and describing the contents of the systems. It is the responsibility of the analyst to identify and select that information required for further study or analysis.

2. The exploitation of information (collection, processing, dissemination) from foreign commercial databases clearly falls with the FBIS charter to collect information from foreign public media in support of Intelligence Community requirements. To meet this responsibility, FBIS S&T units in Antwerp and Milan are obtaining online access to selected foreign language database services. FBIS staff officers at these units select material from the databases that meets requirements, have this material translated by locally hired contractors, and forward the translations to FBIS Headquarters for dissemination to consumers through JPRS reports.

3. As in the acquisition of other open media sources such as foreign newspapers, periodicals and even press agency services, OCR and FBIS may at times draw upon the same market of raw information. The further handling and presentation of such information by OCR and FBIS to users is dissimilar and is guided by the distinctly different missions of the two offices.

a. The distinguishing features of FBIS's commercial database exploitation efforts are:

- only foreign database hosts are chosen for exploitation;
- database entries are in a foreign language requiring translation into English;
- attempts are made to identify and exploit databases not available in the United States;



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- emphasis is on databases containing scientific, technical, and economic information;
- information selected for processing meets the same general criteria used in exploiting information from other open media sources;
- information selected and processed is disseminated regularly on an unclassified basis to consumers through the JPRS Report series.

b. The distinguishing features of OCR's commercial databases acquisition and use are:

- all databases relevant to specific analyst tasking, foreign and domestic, are acquired and they are used to respond to specific queries;
- database inquiries are in English as well as in foreign languages, but no translation is performed by OCR;
- a broad spectrum of databases are queried providing a wide range of information from the social sciences to the hard sciences;
- database citations are given to individual requesters.

4. OCR and FBIS agree that their methods and objectives in acquiring information from foreign commercial databases are not duplicative and are carried out in full agreement with the missions of the respective offices. Furthermore, OCR and FBIS will continue their cooperative efforts to ensure that areas of potential conflict of responsibility are discussed and resolved to the satisfaction of both offices.



Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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Director, Office of Central Reference

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